GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department - Diversion of 61.73 ha of forest land falling in Compartment Nos.308 & 309 of Palamaner RF and Compartment No.384 of Tekumanda Extn. RF, Palamaner Beat & Range of Chittoor West Division for construction of Green field 4 lane Bangalore-Chennai Expressway Phase-II from km 71.000 to km 156.00 under Bharatmala on Hybrid Annuity Mode in favour of Project Director, NHAI, PIU, Chittoor – Final (stage-II) approval accorded.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Section-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.13 **Dated 15.02.2024**

Read the following:-

1)From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Lr.Ref.No.EFS02-15034/1/2021-FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-1, dated 09.08.2022.
2)State Govt.Lr.No.1894/Sec.II/2022,1811378, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dated 29.08.2022.
3)From the GoI, MoEF & CC, IRO, Vijayawada, Lr.No.4-APB184/2022-VIJ/577, dated 23.09.2022.
4)From the PCCF & HoFF, Lr.Ref.No.EFS02-15034/1/2021-FCA SEC PCCF/FCA-1, dated 31.07.2023.
5)State Govt.Letter No.1894/Section.II/2022/1811378, EFS&T (Sec.II) Dept., dated 03.08.2023.
6)From the GoI, MoEF & CC, Sub-Office of the Regional Office at Vijayawada, Lr.No.4-APB184/2022-VIJ/1275, dated 18.09.2023.

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ORDER:

In the letter first read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, has submitted a proposal for diversion of 61.73 ha of forest land falling in Compartment Nos.308 & 309 of Palamaner RF and Compartment No.384 of Tekumanda Extn. RF, Palamaner Beat & Range of Chittoor West Division for construction of Green field 4 lane Bangalore-Chennai Expressway Phase-II from km 71.000 to km 156.00 under Bharatmala on Hybrid Annuity Mode in favour of Project Director, NHAI, PIU, Chittoor and requested to forward the proposal to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada for according necessary approval under the Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. In the letter 2nd read above, the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh was sent to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada for its approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

3. In the letter 3rd read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada have accorded in-principle (Stage-I) approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for the proposal, subject to compliance of certain conditions stipulated therein.

4. In the letter 4th read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh has furnished compliance report on Stage-I conditions and requested to consider the same and forward to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada for according Final (Stage-II) approval to the proposal under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Accordingly, the State Government have forwarded compliance report to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada for according Final(Stage-II) approval for the proposal vide in the letter 5th read above.

5. In the letter 6th read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Sub-Office of the Regional Office at Vijayawada, have accorded Final / Stage-II approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 61.73 ha of forest land falling in Compartment Nos.308 & 309 of Palamaner RF and Compartment No.384 of Tekumanda Extn. RF, Palamaner Beat & Range of Chittoor West Division for construction of Green field 4 lane Bangalore-Chennai Expressway Phase-II from km 71.000 to km 156.00 under Bharatmala on Hybrid Annuity Mode in favour of Project Director, NHAI, PIU, Chittoor, subject to certain conditions stipulated therein.

6. After careful examination of the proposal, the Government hereby accord permission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, for diversion of 61.73 ha of forest land falling in Compartment Nos.308 & 309 of Palamaner RF and Compartment No.384 of Tekumanda Extn. RF, Palamaner Beat & Range of Chittoor West Division for construction of Green field 4 lane Bangalore-Chennai Expressway Phase-II from km 71.000 to km 156.00 under Bharatmala on Hybrid Annuity Mode in favour of Project Director, NHAI, PIU, Chittoor, subject to the following conditions:-

i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;

ii. Demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at the cost of the User Agency;

iii. The State Forest Department shall carry out compensatory afforestation over an extent of 142.41 ha of degraded forest area identified in (3) patches (1) in Compartment Nos.272 & 274 of Pathikonda RF, Palamaner Range (51.98 ha), in Compartment No.241, Vavilithota RF of Santhapeta Beat (48.33 ha) and (3) in Compartment No.229 of Keenatampalle Extn. RF., Keenatampalle Beat, Chittoor West Range (42.10 ha), from the amount already been realized from the User Agency;

iv. Identified CA area and CA scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;

v. Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;

vi. The User Agency / State Government shall ensure to comply with all the conditions as recommended by the SC-NBWL;

vii. The Wildlife mitigation approved by the chief wildlife warden and the SC-NBWL shall be implemented in the forest area and the road stretch passing in non-forest area in the Rayala Elephant Reserve and such mitigation plan shall be implemented at the cost of the User Agency;

viii. Trees shall be felled wherever necessary under the strict supervision of the DFO concerned. As the 11 number of trees/poles of Red Sanders are to be felled under the project and the adjacent identified CA area is having red sanders plantation, the State Forest Department shall ensure plantation of sufficient red sanders samplings in the DFL area;

ix. The User Agency shall construct retaining walls and check walls wherever required, by consulting the DFO concerned, at the project cost;

x. The User Agency shall carryout avenue plantation and its maintenance on sides of the road at the cost of the project;

xi. Construction of culverts / bridges, if any, over the natural streams/rivers/canals shall be done in such a manner that it does not hamper the natural course of water, does not give rise to water-logging, and also does not hamper movement of wild animals;

xii. Roadside cuttings and fillings which require engineering support shall be provided as per the instructions of the DFO concerned so as to stabilize the soil;

xiii. The dugout material / overburden shall be dumped outside the forest area. Storage of any material shall not be done in the forest area;

xiv. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;

xv. The User Agency shall provide fire wood preferably alternate fuel to labourers working at the site to avoid damage/tree felling and no labour camp shall be established inside the forest area;

xvi. Disturbance shall be kept minimum by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it shall be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;

xvii. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 61.73 ha and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;

xviii. The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;

xix. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;

xx. Any other conditions that the Central Government or DDG (Central) of Regional Office, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the User Agency;

xxi. In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the User Agency is liable for penal action as per the rules / guidelines issued under FCA, 1980.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, shall take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri, Guntur.

Copy to:
The Project Director, NHAI, PIU, Chittoor, Door No.2-1273/1F, BV Reddy Colony, Chittoor – 517 001.
SF/SC

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER